Justice Dept. Denies Pearson Probe

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Associated Press

The Department of Justice denied yesterday that it was investigating columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson.

The two said in a column published yesterday that they were called to the Department and told "we were under criminal investigation on a charge filed by Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) of stealing documents from his files."

A Department spokesman said:

"Contrary to the assertion in their column this morning, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson were not called into the Department. They came, on March 23, to secure answers to questions Mr. Anderson had raised in a telephone call to the Department on March 21.

"Again, contrary to the column, they were explicitly advised that neither of them was under investigation. What they were told is that the Department is investigating two matters. One is the allegation that thousands of documents have been stolen from Sen. Dodd's office. The Department is inquiring into these allegations to see whether or not any Federal violations are involved.

"The second investigation is to determine whether there is, similarly, any basis for allegations against Sen. Dodd. The Department is looking into these allegations. Indeed, the Senator himself asked that we do so."